

## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A method for time stamping a digital document is disclosed. The document originator creates a time stamp receipt using the document and the current time. The time stamp receipt is submitted to a time stamping authority having a trusted clock. The time stamping authority validates the time stamp receipt by comparing the time value specified in the time stamp receipt to the current time. If the time value specified in the time stamp receipt is within a predetermined time window, the time stamping authority cryptographically binds the time value and document, or the time value and some representation of the document, e.g., by signing the time stamp receipt with its private signature key.